

Subject: Extending Childcare Provision - An Ambition Too Far?

Report to: Economy Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 21 January 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides information on the Committee's meeting on the government's extension of free childcare entitlement and how that will be delivered in London.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees the scope and terms of reference for an investigation into the extension of free childcare provision, as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee puts questions on childcare provision to invited guests, and notes the subsequent discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 15 October 2015, the Committee agreed to use the January meeting to explore progress on, and challenges to, delivering childcare entitlements in the capital. It was agreed that the specific focus of the meeting would be the implications, for London, of the government's commitment to extend free childcare provision from 15 to 30 hours per week for all three and four year olds of working parents.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The scoping document is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 The proposed terms of reference for the investigation are:

- To explore experiences of delivering the current free childcare entitlements for two, three and four year olds, and any challenges to date.
- To explore the implications of the extension of the entitlement for three and four year olds for working parents, and any additional barriers to its delivery.
- To consider what action could be taken by the Mayor to support delivery and uptake of the current and future entitlements.

4.3 At this meeting the Committee will put questions to the following guests:

- Jill Rutter, Head of Policy, Family and Childcare Trust;
- Claire Schofield, Director of Membership, Policy and Communications, National Day Nurseries Association;
- Shannon Hawthorn, Press and Public Affairs Director, Pre-School Learning Alliance; and
- Munira Mirza, Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Childcare Scope

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
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